

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **Community meeting for timber sale on Blanchard Mt.**

OLYMPIA - The public is invited to attend a community meeting hosted by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about its proposed "Pecan Timber Sale."

The meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14,** at the Alger Community Hall (next to the fire station). At the meeting, DNR will present information and answer questions about the design of the planned sale, and receive input from people who may have valuable information about the proposed sale and surrounding area.

"The Pecan thinning is designed to provide funds for local schools and the county while actually protecting habitat for wildlife," said Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland. "We want our neighbors in the community to understand how we are balancing these important goals, and to give their ideas."

The Pecan Timber Sale is designed as a "partial-cut" harvest, where only some trees are removed in the main harvest area. This proposal encompasses 54 acres located on the east slopes of Blanchard Mountain. About one million board feet of timber would be removed and more diverse habitat would be created. This sale is proposed for auction to the highest bidder on

June 17, 2002. Harvesting could take place anytime between the auction date and Nov. 2004.

- Seven acres would be "commercially thinned." Commercial thinning is used in a young, dense forest where reducing that density helps the growth potential of the trees that are left, while generating money for the trust. The Pecan thinning would harvest small trees while leaving about 100 large trees per acre.
- The remaining 47 acres of this sale would be a "shelterwood" harvest. After this particular shelterwood harvest, 20 large trees per acre would be left standing.

## **Revenue for schools and other beneficiaries, and more**

Proceeds from the Pecan Timber Sale would help fund local roads and services in Skagit County such as roads, school operations and hospitals, and it would contribute to the state general fund.

DNR manages about 5.6 million acres of state-owned forest, aquatic, agricultural and urban lands for long-term benefits to current and future trust beneficiaries and other residents of the state.

Since 1970, DNR-managed trust lands have produced more than \$4.55 billion in revenue, reducing the need for taxes to pay for public projects and services. State-owned trust lands are to be managed to produce income for schools, universities, and other state institutions, local services in many counties, and the state general fund. Trust lands are also managed as habitat for native plants, fish and wildlife, and offer recreation and other benefits for all the people of Washington.

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